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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 USBERLIN 1516

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT WB
SUBJ: FDP MISERIES THROW BERLIN POLITICAL SITUATION INTO DOUBT

REFS: (A) USBER 1297; (B) USBER 1253; (C) USBER 1110;
(D) USBER 1445

SUMMARY: EVENTS OF THE PAST MONTH HAVE CAST SOME DOUBT ON THE
BERLIN POLITICAL SCENE. ONE MONTH AGO IT WAS THE UNSPOKEN
ASSUMPTION OF ALL THREE POLITICAL PARTIES THAT THE BERLIN
SPD-FDP COALITION WOULD BE EASILY RETURNED TO OFFICE IN THE
MARCH 1979 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS. THE JUNE 4
ELECTION DEFEATS OF THE FDP IN LOWER SAXONY AND HAMBURG, THE
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ESCAPE FROM MOABIT PRISON BY TERRORIST TILL MEYER AND
THE SUBSEQUENT ATTACKS ON CONTROVERSIAL FDP JUSTICE
SENATOR JUERGEN BAUMANN HAVE, AS REPORTED, UPSET THE
BERLIN FDP AND WITH IT THE BERLIN POLITICAL EQUATION.
RECAPTURING MEYER AND SEVERAL ACCOMPLICES WILL UNDOUBT-
EDLY RELIEVE SOME OF THE IMMEDIATE PRESSURE ON BAUMANN,
BUT CANNOT ELIMINATE IT ENTIRELY. IF THE ELECTIONS

WERE HELD TODAY, THE BERLIN FDP ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD FALL BELOW THE 5 PCT MARK. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE FDP WILL BE ABLE TO RECOVER ITS BALANCE, AND ALTHOUGH BAUMANN IS NOW MORE LIKELY TO SURVIVE, IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE WILL PROVE MORE A POLITICAL PLUS OR MINUS FOR THE GOVERNING PARTIES. ALSO UNCLEAR IS WHETHER THE CITY'S DISPARATE CITIZENS INITIATIVE GROUPS WILL FORM A CITY-WIDE "GREEN LIST" PARTY. THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS IN BAVARIA AND ABOVE ALL, IN HESSE, WILL PROVE CRUCIAL FOR THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE AND THE BERLIN SPD-FDP COALITION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SITUATION BEFORE

PRIOR TO THE EVENTS OF THE FIRST WEEK IN JUNE, IT WAS THE COMMON (IF PUBLICLY UNSPOKEN) POLITICAL WISDOM OF ALL POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN BERLIN THAT GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE AND HIS SPD-FDP COALITION WERE A CINCIN TO WIN THE MARCH 1979 BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION. PRIOR TO JUNE 4, THE PRIMARY CONCERNS VOICED BY SPD STRATEGISTS WAS THAT THEIR PARTY MIGHT PEAK TOO SOON BECAUSE THE UPWARD SURGE IN SPD POPULARITY, RESULTING FROM GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S EARLY SUCCESSES AFTER ASSUMING OFFICE, WAS SO RAPID AND STRONG. FDP POLITICIANS, WHILE CONCERNED THAT THEIR PARTY HAD LOST A PER-

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CENTAGE POINT TO THEIR HOLD ON 9 OR 10 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS. PUBLICLY, CDU LEADERS, PARTICULARLY PARTY CHAIRMAN PETER LORENZ, WERE POINTING OUT THEN THAT ALL OF GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S SUCCESSES HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITH "MIRRORS AND BLUE SMOKE" AND THAT SOONER OR LATER THE BERLIN ELECTORATE WOULD WAKE UP AND THE SPD BUBBLE WOULD BURST. PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, NO ONE BUT A HANDFUL OF YOUNGER CDU "TRUE BELIEVERS" SAW THE POSSIBILITY OF A CDU VICTORY NEXT YEAR. IT WAS WIDELY KNOWN IN BERLIN POLITICAL CIRCLES FOR EXAMPLE, THAT LORENZ HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO HEDGE HIS POLITICAL BETS BY LETTING IT BE KNOWN IN THE PARTY THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT A SEAT TO THE EC PARLIAMENT IN THE EVENT HE WERE TO LOSE HIS THIRD RUN FOR GOVERNING MAYOR. THE SPD'S OPTIMISM AND THE CDU'S MOOD OF RESIGNATION HAVE BEEN SWEEPED AWAY BY THE JUNE 4 ELECTION RESULTS AND THE MOABIT BREAKOUT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 USBERLIN 1516

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, WB
SUBJECT: FDP MISERIES THROW BERLIN POLITICAL SITUATION INTO DOUBT

2. RELATIVE CDU AND SPD STRENGTHS
PUBLIC OPINION POLLS TAKEN IN BERLIN OVER THE PAST
SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE SHOWN VERY INCONSISTENT RESULTS. ON
SOME OCCASIONS THE SPD APPEARED TO HAVE AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT
VOTER PREFERENCE, ON OTHERS THE CDU HAS RUN NECK-AND-NECK
WITH THE SPD. GENERAL POLITICAL WISDOM IS THAT WERE THE
FDP TO FAIL TO CLEAR THE 5 PERCENT BARRIER IN THE NEXT ELECTION,
THERE WOULD BE NO GUARANTEE THAT THE SPD WOULD WIN A
PLURALITY OF THE VOTES AND THEREBY EARN AN ABSOLUTE
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MAJORITY OF THE SEATS IN THE BERLIN HOUSE. CDU CHAIRMAN
LORENZ IS FOND OF POINTING OUT THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE
CDU HAS BEEN GROWING STEADILY OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS:
1963 - 28.8 PERCENT

1967 - 32.9 PERCENT

1971 - 38.2 PER CENT

1975 - 43.9 PERCENT: WHILE THE SPD HAS SHOWN

A STEADY DECLINE OVER THE SAME PERIOD FROM 61.9 PCT OF THE VOTE (1963) TO 42.6 PCT IN THE 1975 ELECTIONS. THE CDU HAS, IT APPEARS, A WELL ESTABLISHED AND SOLID VOTER BASE WHICH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE SUBJECT TO SUDDEN REVERSES AS WERE EXPERIENCED BY THE HAMBURG CDU WHICH HAD MADE MAJOR GAINS IN 1972 LARGELY BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THAT SPECIFIC ELECTION.

3. THE RELATIVE STABILITY OF THE BERLIN CDU AND ITS APPROXIMATE ELECTORAL PARITY WITH THE SPD HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY SPD STRATEGISTS ALL ALONG, AND GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE HAS EMPHASIZED SINCE HE CAME TO OFFICE OVER A YEAR AGO THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THE SPD-FDP COALITION IS A POLITICAL NECESSITY FOR BOTH COALITION PARTIES. BERLIN MAYOR AND FDP CHAIRMAN WOLFGANG LUEDER, TOO, HAS CONSISTENTLY ARGUED THE SAME POSITION FOR THE SAME REASONS, EVEN THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION WITHIN HIS PARTY THAT THE FDP SHOULD EITHER KEEP ITS COALITION OPTIONS OPEN (THE RIGHT WING) OR REMAIN TRUE TO PURE IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES AND RETURN TO THE OPPOSITION BANKS (EXTREME LEFT WING). ALL PARTIES, THE OPPOSITION CDU INCLUDED, AGREE THAT THE POLITICAL MATHEMATICS IN BERLIN ARE SUCH THAT THE ONLY WAY THAT GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE CAN BE CERTAIN HE WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE IS THROUGH THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE FDP IN THE BERLIN HOUSE. IN ESSENCE THEN, AN EXAMINATION OF

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THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BERLIN TODAY BOILS DOWN TO AN EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF HEALTH OF BERLIN'S FREE DEMOCRATS.

4. THE LIBERALS

THE BERLIN FDP, LIKE ITS SISTER PARTIES THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS, EVEN DURING THE BEST OF TIMES, NEVER BEEN NOTED FOR ITS ORGANIZATIONAL COHESIVENESS. UP UNTIL JUNE, BERLIN'S FDP WAS FAIRLY CLEARLY SPLIT INTO A DOMINANT LEFT WING AND A MINORITY RIGHT WING. PARTY CHAIRMAN LUEDER, ONCE IDENTIFIED WITH THE LEFT, NOW IS SEEN TO BE STRADDLING THE MIDDLE WITH A FOOT IN EACH CAMP ATTEMPTING TO HOLD THE PARTY TOGETHER BUT HIMSELF THREATENED WITH BEING TORN IN HALF.

5. THE BERLIN FDP'S MAJORITY LEFT WING IS YOUNG (26 PCT OF BERLIN'S FDP IS UNDER 35 YEARS OF AGE) AND REFLECTS TO A GREAT EXTENT THE RADICAL LIBERAL IDEOLOGIES WHICH GREW OUT OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT OF THE 1960'S. THE UNRULY

BERLIN JUNG DEMOKRATEN HAVE LONG BEEN A SOURCE OF PRIVATE CONCERN AND PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. IN THE PAST YEAR THE JUNG DEMOKRATEN INSISTED ON PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTING THE SO-CALLED BUBACK NACHRUF IN DIRECT DEFIANCE OF PARTY ORDERS. MORE RECENTLY THE TIERGARTEN CHAPTER OF THE FDP, CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST LEFT WING IN THE CITY, THREATENED TO BOYCOTT THE 1979 HOUSE ELECTIONS BECAUSE, IN ITS OPINION, THE PARTY AND IN PARTICULAR LUEDER HAD FAILED TO LIVE UP TO LEFT WING FDP DEMANDS AND HAD TOO WILLINGLY COMPROMISED FDP PRINCIPLES IN ORDER TO REMAIN IN POWER WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. LUEDER AND THE PARTY LEADERSHIP WERE ULTIMATELY ABLE TO BRING THE WAYWARD TIERGARTEN ORGANIZATION BACK INTO LINE, BUT ONLY AT THE COST OF CONSIDERABLE NEGATIVE PRESS AND PUBLIC REACTION TO THE EFFECT THAT LUEDER WAS THE CAPTIVE OF HIS OWN PARTY'S LEFT WING.
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6. THE FDP'S RIGHT WING, LED BY THE PARTY'S "WAHL-LOKOMOTIV", FORMER JUSTICE SENATOR HERMANN OXFORD, AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE VICE PRESIDENT KARL HEINZ BAETGE (WHO OPENLY FLIRTS WITH THE CDU), HAS BEEN FEUDING WITH THE PARTY'S LEFT WING FOR YEARS OVER "BERLIN POLITIK" AND ECONOMICS. (THE RIGHT WING HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED A MORE CONSERVATIVE "NATIONALIST" LINE WHEN ADDRESSING BERLIN QUESTIONS WHILE THE LEFT ARGUES FOR THE RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL REALITIES OF A DIVIDED GERMANY AND BERLIN.) FINALLY THE FDP HAS LONG SUFFERED FROM INTERNAL DIVISION BETWEEN THE PARTY "INS" WHO, AS MEMBERS OF THE SENAT, ARE CALLED UPON TO DECIDE UPON AND IMPLEMENT THE POLITICAL COMPROMISES
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REQUIRED BY A COALITION GOVERNMENT, AND THE "OUTS" WHO, WITH NO PRACTICAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE LIKE TO "MAKE POLITICS" FROM THEIR LITTLE IVORY TOWER CONSTITUENCIES, WITH LITTLE HEED FOR PRACTICAL REALITIES.

7. IT ITS DIVIDED AND UNSETTLED CONDITION, BERLIN'S FDP WAS BADLY ROCKED BY THE MOABIT JAILBREAK AND THE JUNE 4 ELECTION RESULTS. FDP STALWARTS HAVE TOLD US THAT HAD THE BERLIN ELECTIONS BEEN HELD IN THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE FDP WOULD HAVE FAILED TO CLEAR THE 5 PCT BARRIER. (SINCE 1963, THE FDP HAS FAIRLY CONSISTENTLY HOVERED AROUND 7.1 TO 7.5 PCT OF THE ELECTORATE WITH FDP LEADERS ESTIMATING ONLY 3 PCT OF THE VOTERS AS BEING SOLID SUPPORTERS.) NONE OF THE FDP'S POLITICAL FIGURES WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN HAS BEEN WILLING TO MAKE A FLAT PREDICTION ABOUT THE PARTY'S CHANCES IN NEXT MARCH'S ELECTION BECAUSE, THEY SAY, THERE ARE TOO MANY INPONDERABLES TO BE CONSIDERED. FROM WHAT WE HAVE HEARD, HOWEVER, BERLIN'S LIBERALS WILL BE WATCHING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CITY'S CITIZEN INITIATIVE GROUPS CLOSELY AND WILL BE ATTEMPTING TO GAUGE THE EXTENT TO WHICH FDP VOTERS MAY BE INCLUDED TO DEFECT TO ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES OR SIMPLY STAY HOME AS A FORM OF PROTEST. EVERYONE AGREES THAT THE IMPACT OF THE OCTOBER LAND ELECTIONS IN BAVARIA AND ABOVE ALL, IN HESSE, WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON BERLIN'S FDP. BERLIN SPECULATION AS TO WHETHER HESSE'S FDP WILL SURVIVE IN OCTOBER RUNS THE FULL GAMUT. BERLIN SPD INSIDERS ARE PUTTING A GOOD GLOSS ON THIS QUESTION, BUT THEY ARE VERY NERVOUS. BERLIN FDP-ERS PREDICT IN OBLIGATORY FASHION

THAT THEIR PARTY WILL CLEAR THE 5PCT BARRIER BUT ARE NOT
VERY CONVINCING.

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8. ONE HOPE FOR THE BERLIN FDP IS THAT THE MESSAGE OF
THE DEFEATS IN HAMBURG AND LOWER SAXONY ON BERLIN'S
FDP WILL FORCE THE PARTY TO REVAMP ITS IMAGE AND
MAKE AN APPEAL TO THOSE VOTERS WHO DESERTED THE PARTY
ON JUNE 4. SOME FDP INSIDERS HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBTS,
HOWEVER, WHETHER AT THIS RELATIVELY LATE DATE THE FDP
CAN PRESENT A CONVINCING IMAGE AS THE PARTY CONCERNED
WITH TAX REFORM, ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND OTHER ISSUES
CHAMPIONED BY THE "GREENS" AND CITIZENS' INITIATIVE GROUPS.

9. AS A RESULT OF THE MOABIT, BREAKOUT THE ATTACKS ON
SENATOR BAUMANN AND THE JUNE 4 ELECTORAL DEFEATS
IN HAMBURG AND LOWER SAXONY, THE BERLIN FDP HAS GONE
INTO A STATE OF AGITATED SHOCK. RECOGNIZING THE CLEAR
THREAT TO THEIR OWN EXISTENCE, THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY
HAVE CIRCLED THEIR WAGONS, BUT HAVE DONE VERY LITTLE
ELSE TO DRAW UP A COMMON PLAN OF ACTION. INSTEAD, THERE
IS A GREAT DEAL OF SHOUTING, ARM WAVING, RUSHING AROUND
AND TRADING OF RECRIMINATING REMARKS AND ACCUSATION.
THERE IS CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION THAT BAUMANN HAS NOT
RESIGNED AS MANY FDP MEMBERS CONSIDER HIS CONTINUATION
IN OFFICE HURTS THE PARTY. RIGHT WING LEADER
OXFORD HAS BEEN LEADING BITTER VERBAL ATTACKS AGAINST
LUEDER AND OTHER PARTY LEADERS AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
ERWIN LOSSMANN (LEFT WING) MADE A VAIN RUN AT DEFEATING
LUEDER'S HAND-PICKED CHOICE FOR LEADING FDP CANDIDATES
IN ZEHLENDORF OVER THE JUNE 23 WEEKEND.
THE RE-CAPTURE OF MOABIT ESCAPEE TILL MAYER HAS
EASED SOMEWHAT THE FDP'S (AND SENATOR BAUMANN'S) LOAD,
BUT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER INTEREST IN
THE PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION OF THE BREAKOUT WILL

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PETER OUT, OR REMAIN ALIVE AS AN ISSUE TO PLAGUE THE
FDP INTO THE FALL PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

10. CITIZENS INITIATIVES, GREEN LISTS AND OTHER GOBLINS
A MAJOR QUESTION MARK IN ATTEMPTING TO ASSESS THE
FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THE FDP AND THE GOVERNING COALITION
IS THE ROLE OF THE CITIZENS' INITIATIVE (BURGERINITIATIVEN
- CI'S). HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN THE ZEHLENDORF
RUNOFF ELECTIONS I 1975, THE CITIZENS INITIATIVE GROUPS
(CI'S) PROVIDE A PSECTRE WHICH BERLIN'S POLITICAL PARTIES
WOULD LIKE TO BUT CANNOT IGNORE. THE CI'S IN BERLIN ARE A DIS-
PARATE LOT WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE INTRA-GROUP COORDINA-
TION OR COMMUNICATION. THEY TEND TO BE SINGLE ISSUE-
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ORIENTED AND HAVE FOCUSE ALMOST ENTIRELY ON SPECIFIC,
OFTEN MINOR COMMUNAL PROBLEMS (THE ZEHLENDORF TUNNEL,
HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION I KRUEZBERG, THE DESTRUCTION OF
OLD CITY LANDMARKS IN KRUEZBERG AND SCHOENEBERG).
THE ONLY CI'S WHICH HAVE TO DATE GAINED A FOLLOWING ON
A CITY-WIDE BASIS (PSNADAU POWER STATION; GARBAGE
COMPRESSING PLANT) HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED AND LED BY RADIC-
ALLY ORIENTED INTELLECTUAL LAWYERS IDENTIFIED WITH ONE
OR MORE RADICAL OR EXTREME LEFT WING ORGANIZATIONS.
IT IS AN OPEN QUESTION WHEHTER THE CI'S, GREEN
LISTS, GLU'S OR WHATENER, WILL BE ABLE TO COALESCE INTO
A REAL POLITICAL FORCE BEFORE THE 1979 ELECTIONS. ONE
GETS ALMOST AS MANY OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT AS THE
NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASKED. THERE EXIST AT PRESENT NO

CONCRETE ISSUES AROUND WHICH OR AGAINST WHICH A CITY-WIDE CI OR GREEN LIST PARTY COULD RALLY. IT SEEMS VERY LIKELY THAT LOCAL CI'S WILL CMAPAING FOR DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES IN ZEHLENDORF, KRUEUZBERG, WEDDING OR REINICK-ENDORF. IT IS LESS CLEAR WHETHER A CITY-WIDE GREEN PARTY WILL BE FOUNDED. CI LEADERS THEMSELVES ARE NON-COMITTAL. A DISTILLATION OF VIEWS ON THE QUESTION APPEARS TO SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN 50-50 CHANCE THAT A LAND-WIDE CI OF GREEN LIST PARTY WILL BE ORGANIZED, BUTH THAT THE CI'S CHANCES OF CLEARING THE 5 PCT BARRIER ARE SLIM. THIS COULD, HOWEVER, CHANGE OVERNIGHT IF A CAUSE COLD BE FOUND. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT IN ANY CASE THAT WERE A BERLIN-WIDE GREEN PARTY TO COME INTO BEING AND RUN CANDIDATES FOR THE BERLIN HOUSE, IT WOULD DRAW MOST OF ITS STRENGHT FROM VOTERS WHO TRADIITIONALLY SUPPORT THE FDP AND COULD DRIVE THE LIBERALS BELOW THE 5 PCT MARK.

11. ANOTHER UNPREDICTABLE FACTOR IN BERLIN IS
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THE EXTENT TO WHICH GENERAL CITIZEN DISSATISFACTION WITH THE ESTABLISHED PARTIES WILL MAKE ITSELF FELT THROUGH DEFECTIONS TO OTHER PARTIES, THROUGH STAY-AT-HOMES ON ELECTION DAY, OR THROUGH PROTEST VOTES GIVEN TO SPLINTER GOURPS AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES. GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE HAS PUT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT INTO REFURBISHING HIS GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE AS AN ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE TO THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE COMMON CITIZEN. A MONTH AGO, FOR EXAMPLE, HE INSTITUTED THE PRACTICE OF RESERVING ONE DAY A MONTH SOLELY TO MEET WITH CITIZENS WHO WISH TO RAISE QUESTIONS OR LODGE COMPLAINTS WITH HIM AFTER THEY HAD BEEN REBUFFED OR FURSTRATED BY THE CITY BUREAUCRACY. OBJEDTIVELY SPEAKING, THESE BUERGERSPRECHSTUENDE HAVE BEEN ONLY MINIMALLY EFFECTIVE. THE GESTURE WAS MADE, HOWEVER, AND THE PUBLIC IMPACT WAS GOOD. PRESS SPOKESMAN PETER SOETJE HAS TOLD US AS WELL THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS PROGRAM, THE NEWLY CREATED OFFICE OF CITIZENS ADVOCATE (BUERGERBEAUFTRAGTER - TYPE OF OMBUDSMAN) HAS BEEN DELUGED BY CITIZENS' INQUIRIES AND HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN BREAKING THROUGH BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE TO HELP BERLIN'S JOHN DOE RESOLVE HIS PROBLEM. THROUGH THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY STOBBE MAY SUCCEED IN CONVINCING TRADITIONAL SPD VOTERS AND MANY IN THE UNDECIDED CATEGORY THAT HIS PARTY AND HIS GOVERNMENT IS BEING RESPONSIVE TO THE CITIZENS' NEEDS. THE FDP HAS NOTHING LIKE THIS GOING FOR IT.

12. ON THE CDU SIDE OF THE AISLE, THERE IS LITTLE

CONCERN THAT TRADITIONAL VOTERS WILL DEFECT. WE TEND
TO AGREE WITH THE CDU'S ESTIMATE IN THIS REGARD. THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE A STABLE ELECTORATE AND IT IS

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ONE WHICH HAS GROWN STEADILY OVER THE LAST 12 YEARS.
IT IS NOT LIKELY TO SUFFER A SUDDEN REVERSAL AS OCCURRED
IN HAMBURG WHERE, IN 1975, SPD LOSSES AND CDU GAINS
HAD BEEN A ONE TIME OCCURRENCE CAUSED BY SPECIFIC CAMPAIGN
ISSUES.

13. CONCLUSIONS: IF THE FDP FAILS BELOW 5 PCT IN 1979,
STOBBE'S CHANCES OF GAINING AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY
SEEM AT THIS POINT AS ABOUT EVEN. HE HAS HAD A GOOD
FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE, AND HE CONVEYS THE IMAGE OF A
MAYOR IN FULL CONTROL OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATION.
BUT HE FACES A CDU WITH A STABLE BLOC OF VOTERS AND A
LONG RECORD OF IMPROVING ITS POSITION IN THE CITY EVEN
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IF ITS LEADERSHIP IS LACKLUSTRE. GIVEN THE TIGHTNESS
OF THE SITUATION, WE CAN EXPECT STOBBE TO SEEK TO EN-
HANCE HIS IMAGE AND THAT OF THE SPD IN ANY WAY HE CAN
BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT MARCH. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED,
THEREFORE, IF HE ACCLERATED HIS EFFORT TO BRING
MAJOR NEW U.S. INVESTMENT TO BERLIN OR TOOK OTHER
STEPS VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. WHICH WOULD PORTRAY
HIS LOCALLY AS A MAN ABLE TO PRODUCE PRACTICAL AMERICAN
COOPERATION ON BERLIN ISSUES. THE PRESIDENT'S FORTH-
COMING VISIT WILL OF COURSE BE HELPFUL TO HIM IN THIS
RESPECT.DAVIS

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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2201356
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FDP MISERIES THROW BERLIN POLITICAL SITUATION INTO DOUBT
TAGS: PINT, WB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c134667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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